

Title Ochratoxin A in coffee beans (*Coffea arabica* L.) processed by dry and wet methods
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Abstract

The incidence of ochratoxin A was studied in different coffee (*Coffea arabica* L.) samples. A higher incidence of filamentous fungi was observed in the coffee swept from ground and floating coffee samples. The species *Aspergillus ochraceus*, *Aspergillus sulphureus* and *Aspergillus sclerotiorum* were ochratoxin A producing. In 128 (44%) samples ochratoxin A was not detected; however, in 89 samples (31%), ochratoxin A was detected at 0.1–5.0 µg/Kg levels. Other 25% samples presented contamination above 5.0 µg/Kg. This study showed that the fractions coffee swept from ground and floating coffee represents a serious risk of ochratoxin A contamination.